THE

JUVENILE PORT-FOLIO,

AND

Literary Miscellany;

DEVOTED TO THE INSTRUCTION,

AND

AMUSEMENT OF YOUTH.

Conducted by Thomas G. Condie, jun.

"A lasting wreath of various hue,
"Deck'd with each fragrant flower."

VOL. I.

PHILADELPHIA.

PRINTED BY JOHN BIOREN, NO. 88, CHESNUT-STREET,
FOR THE EDITOR, NO. 22, CARTER'S ALLEY.

1813.

TO THE READERS OF THE

JUVENILE PORT-FOLIO.

THE Editor would be wanting in duty, to his numerous patrons, and to himself, were he to permit his *First Volume*, to go into the world, without respectfully expressing his sincere gratitude for the very liberal encouragement with which the work has been honoured, and which far exceeds his highest expectations; for as far as he has been able to learn, wherever the work has been received, it has met with very universal approbation.—The first number was issued to *Three Hundred* subscribers only, which in the course of the year have increased to upwards of *Six Hundred*, and were he to include those who have taken only one or two quarters, and then left off, the list would rate upwards of *Seven hundred.*

From the number of New Subscribers which are at present daily received, and making a proper allowance for those who will drop off with with the First Volume, he has every reason to hope that he will issue the *First number of Volume Second*, to about *Seven Hundred subscribers*, and, that during the month of January, the list will swell to *One Thousand!*

Many enquiries have been made to know, whether he is the *real*, or only the *ostensible** editor? To this question, he replies in general terms; that, the plan of the work originated with himself: at first it was intended to be on a smaller scale, confined in its circulation to his schoolmates and Juvenile friends—this was found impracticable, being inadequate to defray the expense; the present plan was then adopted, which placed it under the patronage of the public for its support. With these views he composed the *Proposals*, and *Address to the Juvenile Public.* These he submitted to a literary friend, from whom they received some improvement, previous to publication.

What may justly be termed the *Editorial Department*, rests with him alone; no piece has been published, which has not been either selected, or approved of by him, whether received through the medium of the LETTER-BOX, or from other resources, and in all cases wherein he found himself at a loss, one or other of his friends were consulted.

The duty of Editor only, would in itself, be both agreeable and instructive; but the work of the publisher, *viz.* attending to the circulation of the numbers, regulating the subscription list, collection and disbursement of monies, and correcting the proofs, were also performed by him, excepting what assistance he received from his father, in those short, and uncertain intervals, which occur during a severe and lingering *Pulmonary Consumption*, with which he has been long afflicted.

The Editor, however, intends at the commencement of the second volume, to confine his labours solely to the business of CONDUCTOR, and with the assistance of some literary friends, to arrange the matter so as to produce an agreeable and instructive variety; and he will continue, as he has hitherto done, to exercise his selecting office with his best judgment, and with all possible impartiality.——The publishing or pecuniary department, will therefore, for obvious reasons, be conducted under the inspection, and in the name of his Father; This

* When the work commenced, the Editor was not fourteen years old.

new arrangement arising out of its extended circulation, will be of great benefit to the subscribers, and also to the work itself.

During the publication of the first volume, many hints for its improvement have been suggested, by numerous correspondents, to most of which he would cheerfully accede, were it possible to adopt them.—He has been early and frequently requested, to designate all pieces which are *original*, as such; were he to comply with this request, he would lead his readers into great error, as at least *three fourths*, of what is communicated to him as original, are copied from other works.—He has oftener than once, had sent him as original, a piece copied from a Philadelphia newspaper, with the initials of the person who copied it annexed as those of its author. Another mode recommended is to annex the word *Selected*, to all those pieces which he knows to be such, mentioning the author or book from which the piece is taken; this will not in his opinion be attended with any advantage, as the other matter would by many be taken for original. There are many pieces which pass for original which are copied from European publications, but so altered and adapted to the country, *(Americanized)* that it is difficult to detect the imposition; this species of *literary cobling* is carried on to a great extent. The Editor will therefore, as formerly, only mention as original, those pieces which he really knows to be such.

It has been observed that the first volume generally, is of too pathetic, serious, and moral a nature, and that it is deficient in pieces of wit and humour; to the last the editor readily assents, having found it more difficult to procure a sufficiency of *chaste* wit and humour, than any other species of matter, for it often happens, that pieces in this department are rendered disgusting with oaths, &c. or so gross in both sentiment and language, as to render them unfit for this work.

It is the intention of the Editor, to enrich the columns of the succeeding volume, with many articles in various departments of literature, in addition to those generally found in the first. Biography, than which nothing is more instructive, or excites a stronger interest, will always furnish entertainment; biographical anecdotes, and sketches of original character; manners, customs, and characters of nations, or people, either newly discovered, or not generally known; remarkable historical facts and anecdotes, with a variety of other matter, from the various departments of polite literature.

Animated by past favours, and happy in the prospect of increased resources for his future exertions, the Editor closes his first year's labour, and cheerfully prepares for its renewal.

Thomas G. Condie, jun.

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